



U.S. Embassy, Lusaka

CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR



November - December 2013 Volume 4

Message from the Consul by Rob Romanowski

In the previous edition of our consular newsletter, we bid farewell to Ambassador Mark C. Storella and Deputy Chief of Mission Stephen M. Schwartz and wished them success in their onward assignments.

With their departure, we have been fortunate to welcome David J. Young as our Chargé d’Affaires until the nomination of our Ambassador-Designate, Eric Schultz, is confirmed by U.S. Congress. Once a new ambassador arrives in Zambia, Chargé Young will become our Deputy Chief of Mission.

If you have not already met Chargé Young, in this issue we’ll acquaint you with him. He has been enthusiastically touring Zambia, meeting people, and familiarizing himself with programs that the U.S. government supports

to help the Zambian people. The consular section also looks forward to an opportunity in the near future to host U.S. citizen residents so they can meet both Mr. Young and our incoming ambassador.

In the United States, November is a month when Americans, together as a nation, reflect on reasons we have to be thankful. On November 11, we will express our special gratitude to our veterans. At the U.S. Embassy we will hold a private ceremony to honor the men and women of the United States armed forces and everyone who has ever worn the uniform of our nation’s military.

We also extend our most profound respects to those who have fallen and have given their “last full measure of devotion” to our nation so that freedom’s heritage can be preserved. There are 22 million living Americans who have

served our nation in uniform during war and peace and nearly 700 veterans of World War II pass away every day. The loss of these men and women is immeasurable but they will not be forgotten.

We are also reminded to be thankful for our blessings and bounty on Thanksgiving, November 28. Although Thanksgiving can be a bit different overseas – our extended family are not with us, the turkey and cranberry sauce are absent, and there is no afternoon football game – there is always much for which we are thankful.

A French critic once said, “Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses.” We are thankful about what we do have, and in many parts of Zambia it is easy to see that that is still quite a lot. From the consular section, we wish you an enjoyable and memorable holiday season.



Chargé d’Affaires David Young celebrating with participants at the Special Olympics in Lusaka

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At the University of Lusaka, Chargé d’Affaires David Young talks with graduating students

Meet our Chargé d’Affaires David Young

David J. Young began his assignment as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia on July 24, 2013 and is currently serving as the Chargé d’Affaires. Following the arrival of a new ambassador, Mr. Young will assist in leading the U.S. Mission’s 400 American and Zambian staff and in administering \$450 million in annual programming.



He studied on a Rotary Foundation Scholarship at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, receiving a diploma in ecumenical studies in 1985.

He received a Master of Divinity degree in social ethics (1987) and a Master of Arts in international relations from Boston University (1988).

Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, he and his wife Diane Weisz Young have two children, Paul and Sarah. He enjoys playing basketball with his kids, going on safari with family and friends, and cheering for the Kansas City Chiefs.

How will the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) affect U.S. Citizens Abroad?

A Foreign Service Officer for 23 years, Mr. Young previously was Deputy Director of the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan (2011-13). From April-May 2012 he served as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission in Khartoum, Sudan. Prior to this, he was Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights (2009-11); a Pearson Fellow in the House of Representatives (2008-9); Public Affairs Officer at Embassy Guatemala (2005-8); and Director of the Office of International Religious Freedom (2003-5).

Mr. Young also served as a political officer at Embassy Hanoi and Embassy Panama, as desk officer for Burma and for Oman and Bahrain, as UN General Assembly Coordinator in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, and as a Senior Watch Officer and a Watch Officer in the State Department Operations Center.

Mr. Young graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1984.

The Affordable Care Act is an effort to reform the U.S. health care system to offer health insurance coverage to uninsured U.S. citizens and lower overall health care costs in the United States.

The Act establishes state-based exchanges, or marketplaces, where insurance policies can be compared and purchased. Another aspect of the Act, is that most U.S. citizens are now required, under the individual mandate provision, to purchase health insurance or incur a tax penalty.

U.S. citizens overseas are not required to purchase insurance coverage under the Act, and will not receive a tax penalty as a result of being uninsured. Also, to be eligible for coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace (a federal-run listing of insurance plans in the United States), you have to reside in the U.S. For more information about the Act, please visit:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/>

American Citizen Services Corner

Smart Traveler i-Phone Application

Smart Traveler, the official State Department app for U.S. travelers, invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more.

To read reviews and access the free download please check out the following link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>



FAQ's - U.S. Citizenship

Is it true that anyone born in the United States is a U.S. citizen? Yes, almost everyone born in the United States is a U.S. citizen regardless of the nationality or status of his/her parents. The only exception is for children of foreign diplomats who have full diplomatic immunity. Anyone else can apply for an American passport by presenting an original birth certificate showing birth in the United States and adequate identity documents. Please review our embassy checklist [here](#).

Can I hold more than one passport or nationality? Yes. In the 1980's, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that citizenship is a constitutional right that cannot be taken away from a citizen who does not intend to relinquish it. Therefore, such actions as naturalization in a foreign country, employment with a foreign government, and/or voting in a foreign election do not automatically jeopardize U.S. citizenship. However, please note that all U.S. citizens, even dual nationals, must enter and depart the United States on U.S. passports.

The State Department [Advice about Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Dual Nationality](#) has further details.

We are Americans who live in Zambia. We just adopted a child and s/he is living with us here. How do we get him/her an American passport?

Adoption by a U.S. citizen parent does not automatically confer citizenship, but it does qualify a child for expeditious naturalization, or citizenship upon entry to the U.S. [Read more ...](#)

November is Adoption Month

November is adoption month in the United States. The U.S. Embassy maintains an adoption information sheet for those interested in adopting a child in Zambia. We can also provide details on the process for securing U.S. citizenship for your adopted child, which varies depending on whether you are resident here or in the United States. More broadly, we work with Zambian authorities to improve the transparency of the adoption process, and encourage the application of international standards for intercountry adoptions. Your first step is to get informed. For more information, visit www.adoptions.state.gov and select "Zambia."



For your Future Diplomats

Are your children curious about the world? They can learn more about what the State Department does by visiting

<http://www.state.gov/youthandeducation/>

The Website offers fun activities and interactive educational information on the world of diplomacy for children, teachers and parents. It also links to the State Department's recruitment site:

www.careers.state.gov.



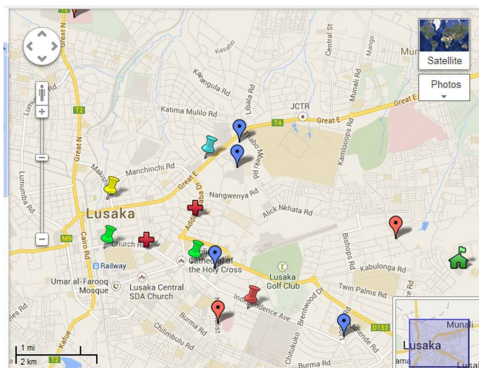
U.S. Embassy Contact Information:

Emergency Mobile: 0966 877 805

Routine Contact Info:

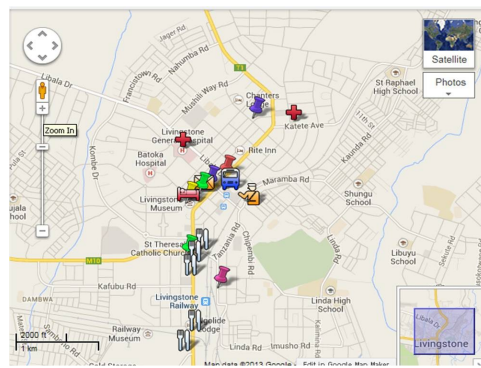
ACSLusaka@state.gov

0211 357 000

American Citizen Services Corner

A Google Map of Lusaka:
<http://zambia.usembassy.gov/service2.html>

Although our embassy relocated to Ibex Hill in 2011, visitors occasionally get dropped off by taxis at the old location. To this end, we have customized maps to allow travelers to find and get directions to key consular points of interest (immigration offices, police, health clinics, airport, etc). If you would like to recommend a site to include on the map, or even a town or city we should include, please let us know at ACSLusaka@state.gov



A Google Map of Livingstone:
<http://zambia.usembassy.gov/service2.html>

US Embassy Lusaka Mission Calendar 2014

January 1	Wednesday	New Year's Day	US/Zambian
January 20	Monday	Martin Luther King Birthday	US
February 17	Monday	Presidents' Day	US
March 12	Wednesday	Youth Day	Zambian
April 18	Friday	Good Friday	Zambian
April 21	Monday	Easter Monday	Zambian
May 1	Thursday	Labor Day	Zambian
May 26	Monday	Memorial Day/Africa freedom day	US/Zambian
July 4	Friday	Independence Day	US
July 7	Monday	Heroes Day	Zambian
July 8	Tuesday	Unit Day	Zambian
August 4	Monday	Farmer's Day	Zambian
September 1	Monday	Labor Day	US
October 13	Monday	Columbus Day	US
October 24	Friday	Independence Day	Zambian
November 11	Tuesday	Veterans Day	US
November 27	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	US
December 25	Thursday	Christmas Day	US/Zambian

RTSA's Fast-track Court System

The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) have launched fast-track courts to quickly handle traffic offenses, and convictions have already begun. Under the initiative, a person convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol would be required to surrender themselves to a prescribed prison every weekend until the full sentence was served. Imprisonment would be served during a number of consecutive weekends, and the offence would also be likely liable to a fine. The new policy is pursuant to Road Traffic Act No.11 of 2002, section 157-160. The pilot project initially applies to offences committed in Lusaka and may thereafter apply to offences throughout Zambia: <http://www.rda.org.zm/index.php/acts>

Advisory for Driving in Zambia During the Rainy Season

- Roads become slippery and pot holes form easily.
- Many drivers drive often without lights.
- Pedestrians may cross in the rain without notice or reflective clothing.
- People may be in a celebratory mood during holidays and may be inebriated.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we move into the holiday season, the consular section would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and hope that your success in the New Year lasts much longer than your New Year's resolutions!

WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

Consult the State Department's travel information site for information on services for U.S. citizens resident abroad and tips to stay safe. Check out the feature on road safety overseas: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html. Stay Smart, Stay Safe, Stay Informed!

Zambian Road Tax.

Most road taxes will expire at the end of December 2013. Please be reminded to check that your road tax is up to date. <http://www.rtsa.org.zm/>

We Want Your Skills in a Crisis

We do not expect disaster, but it pays to be prepared. We have only to look to neighboring countries to see how seemingly small events lead to large demonstrations.

While we are fortunate that Zambia and its people are so peaceful, U.S. Embassies around the world have found it helpful to know about special skill sets and resources that exist in the American community. Maybe you were a firefighter, or undertaker, or structural engineer in a former life. Maybe you are a surgeon specializing in spinal injuries. Perhaps you have a satellite phone or operate a radio station or are able to decipher the legal system. Maybe you own a plane and could fly an evacuation mission, or have a dormitory with 20 beds that could serve as a safe haven. You might be surprised what skills and resources are useful in a crisis.

We appreciate all of you. If you would like to volunteer please email us at ACSLusaka@state.gov. This is certainly not required, but it is one more way you can make a positive difference to your fellow citizens in Zambia.

